

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 remain pending in the application with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 3-25 have been previously withdrawn. Claim 26 has been previously canceled. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. The specification has been objected to for various typographical errors. The drawings have been objected to for including reference numerals that are not described in the specification. The drawings have also been rejected for not showing 10 different reference numerals that are described in the specification. Claims 1 and 2 have been objected to for various informalities. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No.: 6,392,677 (“Lais”) in view of U.S. Patent Appl. Pub. No.: 2001/0014246 (“Luciano”).

Restriction Requirement

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include inventive technical features, as described in more detail below, which are common to all claims. Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the election/restriction requirement.

In the restriction requirement, the Examiner asserted that the application contains several inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Under the PCT, the concept of “unity of invention” means that allegedly different inventions are present, which means that the allegedly different inventions as claimed lack a “common technical feature”. MPEP § 1893.03(d) (“A group of inventions is considered linked to form a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature.”).

In the first instance, it is noted that each of the claims to which the Restriction Requirement has been applied is a dependent claim, depending from claim 1. Each dependent claim includes all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and thus share a common technical feature, i.e., the limitations of claim 1. Even under the Examiner's interpretation, there is currently pending an independent generic claim (claim 1) which embraces each of the delineated "species".

As explained in Chapter 10 of the International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines, a lack of unity of invention exists only if the allegedly different inventions lack a common special technical feature. However, even though two dependent claims which depend from a single independent claim may claim different structure, they nonetheless present common technical features, *see, especially*, Example 12 of the International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines, ¶ 10.32:

- Claim 1: A display with features A + B.
- Claim 2: A display according to claim 1 with additional feature C.
- Claim 3: A display with features A + B with additional feature D.

Unity exists between claims 1, 2, and 3. The special technical feature common to all of the claims is features A + B.

Independent claim 1 has been amended and, as described in more detail below, now includes inventive technical features that are common to all claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement under PCT Rule 13.1 and consideration of all claims is requested.

Objection to the specification

The specification has been objected to because the term "unit 11" should be "unit 26", the term "insertion curve 17" should be "insertion curve 70", the term "vertical 98" should be "vertical 97". The specification has been amended accordingly.

The specification has also been amended to remove reference numerals that are not shown in the drawings.

Applicants submit that this objection has been overcome.

Objections and Rejections of the drawings

The drawings have been objected to for including reference numerals that are not described in the specification. The drawings have also been rejected for not showing 10 different reference numerals that are described in the specification.

The drawings have been amended to remove the reference numeral not described in the specification. Reference number 2b of Fig. 7 has been replaced by reference number 130 (see Fig. 6). Reference numbers 115a and 115b have been replaced by reference number 115 (see page 13, line 31 of Applicants' specification). No new matter has been introduced.

As described above, the specification has been amended to remove the reference numerals not shown in the drawings.

Applicants submit that these objections and rejections have been overcome.

Objection to claims 1 and 2

Claim 1 has been objected to because the phrases “an operating position”, “a locked position”, and “an unlocked position” should read “the operating position”, “the locked position”, and “the unlocked position”. Claim 1 has been amended accordingly.

Applicants submit that this objection has been overcome.

Rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action states that the combination of Lais and Luciano teaches all of Applicants' recited elements.

Independent 1 claim has been amended to recite, inter alia, a printer for a tachograph of a motor vehicle that includes “two movable locking elements extending in opposite directions and configured to be moved into a locked position and into an unlocked position, and two retaining elements fixed to the housing, each of the retaining elements being configured to engage one of the two movable locking elements when the two movable locking elements are in the locked position” and “wherein the two locking elements are configured to be moved translationally transversely with respect to the insertion direction into the locked position and engage the respective retaining elements and into the unlocked position”. Support for the claim amendment can be found in Figs. 8 and 9, and on page 15, lines 16-35 of Applicants' originally-filed specification.

Lais and Luciano, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest “two movable locking elements extending in opposite directions and configured to be moved into a locked position and into an unlocked position, and two retaining members fixed to the housing, each retaining member being configured to engage one of the two movable locking elements

when the two movable locking elements are in the locked position", as recited in Applicants' now amended claim 1.

Lais discloses a tachograph that includes a thermal print head and a feed roller that are spatially separated from one another. A starting section of printing material is automatically clamped between the thermal print head and the feed roller when a drawer closes. One of the closure gaps of the drawer is designed as an output slot for the printed documents produced (see Abstract of Lais).

The Examiner concedes that Lais fails to teach or suggest Applicants' above-described feature. However, the Examiner cites Fig. 10 and paragraphs [0042] and [0051] of Luciano as teaching Applicants' recited feature.

Luciano discloses a modular printer system comprising a support frame, a chassis, a media holder, and a printer assembly. The support frame supports the other components and may be attached to other devices. The chassis is slidably attached to the support frame so that it may be at least partially removed from the support frame thereby exposing components attached to the chassis. The chassis is adapted to hold the media holder and the printer assembly. The media holder holds media that may be printed on by the printer assembly. The printer assembly may be removed from the chassis to service the printer assembly and give full access to the media path. The printer assembly comprises a printer for printing on the media and a controller for controlling the printer and communicating with other devices (see Abstract of Luciano).

The cited passages of Luciano teach that the system 100 may comprise a locking mechanism 120 for locking chassis 104 in a closed position. Locking mechanism 120 is preferably a spring biased pin that engages hole 122. The pin can be disengaged by pulling the

pin downward. Once disengaged, chassis 104 may be slide outward for access to media holder 13 and printer assembly 108.

In other words, Luciano teaches only one locking element (pin 120) and one retaining element (hole 122).

In contrast to Luciano, Applicants' recited invention includes two movable locking elements extending in opposite directions. Applicants' recited locking elements are configured to be moved into a locked position and into an unlocked position. Applicants' recited invention also includes two retaining elements fixed to the housing. Each of the retaining elements is configured to engage one of the two movable locking elements when the two movable locking elements are in the locked position.

Applicants' recited configuration advantageously permits the transmission of torques oriented transversely with respect to the insertion direction 11 from the carriage 106, which is mounted so as to be stable against torques, to the retaining elements 110a, 110b of the locking unit 17. Consequently, torques are transmitted to the locking unit 17 and the media unit is thereby stabilized (see Figs. 8 and 9, and on page 15, lines 16-35 of Applicants' originally-filed specification).

Therefore, Luciano also clearly fails to teach or suggest "two movable locking elements extending in opposite directions and configured to be moved into a locked position and into an unlocked position, and two retaining elements fixed to the housing, each of the retaining elements being configured to engage one of the two movable locking elements when the two movable locking elements are in the locked position", as recited in Applicants' now amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Lais and Luciano fail to teach or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is patentable over Lais and Luciano under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claim 2, which depends from independent claim 1, incorporates all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and is therefore deemed to be patentably distinct over Lais and Luciano for at least those reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,
COHEN PONTANI LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By 
Alfred W. Froebrich
Reg. No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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